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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 19 | Humidity 56% Partly Cloudy Sensex 65,629 | Nifty 19,624 | Gold 59,971 | Silver 71,725 | Dollar 83.15 | Euro 87.93 | GBP 101.05

September air quality index posts considerable decrease in particulate matter pollution levels in city compared to last year

AIR RAISER

41% reduction of PM10 in Hebbal, 54% drop in PM2.5 on Mysore Road

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The majority of the air quality monitoring stations in Bengaluru recorded improvement in air quality over the last year. According to the monthly Air Quality Index (AQI) data by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), the particulate matter concentration in the city went down considerably in September this year compared to September 2022.

Hebbal recorded the highest — 41% reduction in PM10 level. While the average concentration of PM10 was 42µg/m³ in September 2022, it was recorded to be 24.5µg/m³ this year. Mysore Road registered an average drop of 26.5% in PM10 concentration. The harmful pollutant concentration decreased by 30% near NIMHANS and 8% at Saneguruvanahalli.

The concentration of PM2.5 registered a considerable drop this year across most stations. It went down by 42% at Hebbal, 54% on Mysore Road, over 47% near NIMHANS, and by 66% at Central Silk Board in HSR Layout.

According to air quality experts, prime sources of PM10 and PM2.5 include windblown road dust due to bad road conditions and vehicular emissions. While the situation of unpaved roads did not improve

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

“ The only probable cause of lower concentration of particulate matter recorded by CAAQMs is bounteous rainfall in September

— Prof Gufran Beig, chair professor, NIAS, IISc campus

BM
NAVARANG
2023
Today's Colour
GREEN
The joyous Navaratri festival has arrived, and it's time to immerse yourself in the celebrations with Bangalore Mirror Navarang.
Ladies, here's the exciting part – you have the opportunity to adorn yourself in sarees of the colour designated for the day. Gather your favorite companions, capture group selfies in your vibrant sarees, and be sure to embrace the day's thematic color.
Share your group photos/selfies, including names, addresses, and mobile numbers, with us on our WhatsApp line by 3 PM daily.
9591233247
The most captivating group photo stands a chance to be showcased in BM-Navarang
Please note-Tomorrow's colour code is GREY
*Bangalore Mirror reserves the right to use any of these photos for future promotions.

FIRESTARTER

Mishaps linked to flawed fire safety measures

PAGE 5

CUBBON PARKING

Parking in park shan't be allowed, walkers say

PAGE 9

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Musical era

Don't miss out on the chance to attend a grand music presentation by IIMB's PGP alumna and noted classical vocalist Manasi Prasad and her group. The ensemble of 50 members is set to bring together a wide range of music genres, from Indian classical to Western classical, with fusion.
Where: Open Air Theatre, IIMB Campus
When: October 28; 6 pm to 8 pm

02 Amazing feels

This festive season, don't miss the chance to attend Sunday Soul Sante, an artistic flair featuring delectable cuisine and 250 stalls showcasing handcrafted treasures from across India. Also enjoy live music performances by Best Kept Secret, one of India's leading bands, and Bryden-Parth, two city-based musicians from Western and Indian classical backgrounds.

Where: Ecoworld
When: Sunday, October 22; 10 am onwards

03 A masterpiece

Discover the essence of human endeavour and conflicts in 'Parva', a captivating Mahabharata adaptation. Hosted by Rangayana, this theatrical masterpiece bridges the emotional and intellectual realms, challenging traditional narratives with a mesmerising 8-hour live performance in Kannada.
Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall
When: October 19 –22

Festive ready
Ash gourds stocked up in KR Market for the upcoming Ayudha Pooja festival

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Holiday travels: A dent in the budget

As Dasara approaches, prices of bus tickets see significant rise; commuters say transport dept's claims of preventing ticket price inflation during festivals seem like empty promises

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

As all buses are booked out, travel operators are making a killing

Are you planning a long holiday? Brace yourself for some extra expenses. With a long holiday starting today, bus ticket prices have skyrocketed. For instance, today's ticket from Bengaluru to Hyderabad reached a whopping Rs 3,950. An AC semi-sleeper ticket to Mumbai was listed at Rs 3,399, and fares for other destinations also experienced significant spikes—Panjim at Rs 4,940, Chennai at Rs 2,450, Shivamogga at Rs 1,700, Hubballi at Rs 2,000, Mangaluru at Rs 3,800, Udupi at Rs 3,800, Belagavi at Rs 4,399, and Davanagere at Rs 2,300. Regular travellers note that the surge in bus ticket prices is unprecedented.

It's the long Dasara weekend, with Ayudha Pooja scheduled for Monday and Vijaya Dashami on Tuesday. Consequently, many are leaving the city on Friday and planning to take additional days off, transforming it into an extended holiday. However, regular commuters are irked, wondering why the transport department is seemingly ignoring these exorbitant prices.

Devaraju K, a regular commuter, said, "I travel on weekends regularly, but this long weekend's prices are unprecedented. Despite the transport department's claims of conducting surprise checks and regulating private bus operators to prevent ticket price inflation during festivals, they seem like empty promises. Many individuals prefer weekend travel, but with such exorbitant ticket prices, it becomes a daunting prospect."

> **"For a weekend trip to Kochi for my family of four, ticket prices in a few buses are as high as Rs 4,080. This means we need to shell out Rs 16,320**
>
> –Sujatha Nair, a techie

Commuters wonder why no action is taken to curb this overpricing. As many are in a hurry to get out, they have no option but to shell out the extra money, he added.

Sujatha Nair, a techie, said, "I usually plan well in advance to buy tickets at a lower price. However, this year, there was confusion with dates, and I couldn't plan ahead. When I tried to book tickets at the last minute, I was literally shell-shocked. For a weekend trip to Kochi for my family of four, ticket prices in a few buses are as high as Rs 4,080. This means we need to shell out Rs 16,320 just for the journey to Kochi, making it one of the most expensive bus trips for me."

Meanwhile, the railways have announced special trains to accommodate the extra rush of passengers. The South Western Railways have scheduled two trips for train No. 06205 from Mysuru to Dharwar on October 22 and 24, and train No. 06206 from Dharwad to Mysuru on October 23 and 25. Additionally, there will be a train from Mysuru to Bijapur on October 20 and train No. 06204 from Bijapur to Mysuru on October 21.

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Dry days loom as monsoon takes leave

As monsoon withdraws, strong El Nino event signals warmer weather ahead

Sridhar.Vivan
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KAUSHIK JN

Just days ago, city saw the last of its rainy days

As the Southwest Monsoon bids farewell, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts a shift towards warmer weather in the coming weeks, with the influence of a strong El Nino event indicating rising temperatures.

Meteorologist G Srinivasa Reddy stated, "Clear skies are evident in the City, indicating the complete withdrawal of the SW monsoon. Normally, the SW monsoon retreats by October 15, coinciding with the entry of the northeast monsoon, which is yet to occur this year. Dry weather is expected for a while." An update by Namma Karnataka weather on X mentioned, "North East Monsoon activity is likely to commence over the southern peninsula region in the next 72 hours, although the initial phase will be weak, with nothing significant for Karnataka until the monsoon gets very active over north Tamil Nadu or any depression or cyclone crosses the north or central Tamil Nadu coastline."

A Prasad, a Meteorologist from IMD, shared insights with Mirror, "The formal initiation of the retreating monsoon began on October 1, marking the southwest monsoon's gradual withdrawal from different parts of the country, and it has now been completely withdrawn. Our forecast for Karnataka in the months of October, November, and December suggests that several districts may experience rainfall exceeding the average, with a 40 to 50 per cent probability of more precipitation. Specifically, south interior regions like Kodagu, Hassan, Mandya, and Mysuru will likely receive above-average rainfall in October. In contrast, north interior regions such as Bidar, Kalaburagi, Raichur may experience below-average rainfall, and Bengaluru is expected to have normal rainfall."

> **Normally, the SW monsoon retreats by October 15, coinciding with the entry of the northeast monsoon, which is yet to occur this year**
>
> –G Srinivasa Reddy, Meteorologist

In recent years, Karnataka, especially Bengaluru, received widespread rainfall due to the La Nina effect. However, this year, the El Nino effect disrupted the pattern. Coastal areas experienced a 13% rainfall shortfall; the north interior had 11%, the south interior 28%, Bengaluru urban 15%, Bengaluru rural 5%, and Bengaluru city had a 21% rain deficit. Prasad added, "Since October 1, the rainfall deficit in the state is a whopping 53%. In the north interior, it is as much as 88%, and in the south interior, a 37% deficit. The northeast monsoon may enter in two to three days, and it may be weak. As of now, there is a low-pressure area that will soon turn into a depression in the Arabian Sea, but its impact on Karnataka's coastal areas will be nil. Meanwhile, the Bay of Bengal has an upper air cyclonic circulation. It may lead to a low-pressure area by October 20 and a depression by October 23. For the next one week, rainfall may be in the north interior and coastal areas. However, for Bengaluru, the rain will be minimal even though there are chances of rainfall at one or two more places. The rainfall may be less in the State till October 26. The impact of El Nino is currently robust and is anticipated to maintain its strength until February or March 2024."

HSR Layout has worst air quality

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

much over the last year, the number of private vehicles in the city swelled further.

"The only probable cause of lower concentration of particulate matter recorded by CAAQMs is the bounteous rainfall in September. While the majority of the rainfall last year was in July and August, we witnessed excess rain in September this year. Moreover, we also experienced quite a few windy days in September this year. These meteorological factors would have washed off or blown away most of the particulate matter leading to lower readings. As far as emission sources such as vehicular emission and windblown dust are concerned, the situation has only deteriorated," said Prof Gufran Beig, chair professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), IISc campus.

AQI data, however, showed the only station that recorded a surge in PM10 concentration was Central Silk Board in HSR Layout, where it went up by over 300%. While the monthly average concentration of the lead pollutant in the area was

B'luru air quality improves, concerns remain

20.6µg/m³ in September 2022, it hit 90.1µg/m³. Ongoing construction work at Silkboard junction might be one of the reasons behind the high concentration of PM10, said experts.

Researchers pointed out that most of the roads in the city have unpaved areas on either side and the only way to bring down PM10 concentration is by providing carpet-to-carpet road scaffolding.

"Vehicles plying on unpaved roads in the city is a common sight; this leads to suspension of vast amounts of dust, which never gets to settle down due to the continuous traffic. Authorities must look at implementing this solution on city roads as soon as possible. Moreover, strengthening the public transport system is equally necessary to bring down the number of vehicles on city roads and thus vehicular emission," said an environmentalist.

Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS) monitors key pollutants to deduce the AQI of an area. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board has installed 11 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMs) covering residential, commercial, industrial, and silent zones. Air quality is monitored round the clock for primary and secondary pollutants as well as meteorological parameters. The systems are currently installed at City Railway Station, Hebbal, Saneguruvanahalli, NIMHANS, Jayanagar, KAVIKA Mysore Road, Central Silk Board-HSR Layout, Jigani Industrial Area, RV College of Engineering, Kasturi Nagar RTO and Peenya Industrial Area.

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Dark times
Rajarajeshwari Nagar

The high mast light near Jnanabharathi Metro has been non-functional for over two months.

Pathway peril
Gandhinagar

The road and footpath conditions are deplorable near Gandhinagar's D Mart store at the Kempegowda Main Road junction.

Safety concerns
Nandini Layout

In Nandini Layout, near the Outer Ring Bus Stop, where the Service Road intersects with the Outer Ring Road, there is a pressing need to extend the safety wall for enhanced safety.

Caught in a blaze daze

4 fire accidents in 11 days in city; lack of fire-safety measures in buildings main cause

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Four fire accidents have taken place within the city in a span of 11 days. While the Attibele crackers godown tragedy claimed 17 lives, a fire at a Kormanagala café severely injured two persons.

According to a police source, most of these buildings are not getting no-objection certificates from the fire department.

"Most of these buildings are placing inflammable materials exposed to sunlight, like that in the Koramangala blast, where cylinders were kept in the sunlight. If the Inflammable materials get exposed to sunlight, they may catch fire, so immediately you have to try to extinguish it or escape, and these buildings have provision for neither of these options," said the police officer.

He added that these buildings are not fitted with sprinklers or any fire mitigation systems.

"Most of the extinguishers are either expired or people don't know how to use them. Most importantly, the buildings don't have emergency fire exit ways. For example in foreign countries most buildings have spiralling stairs for all buildings but here it's not like that," added the source.

Cafe owner missing

An FIR has been registered against two people including the owner of the cafe in the Sadduguntepalya police station in connection with the fire incident in a cafe in the city's Koramangala. The owner of the cafe is absconding after the accident.

The building owner too has been booked. A case has been registered under IPC Sections 338, 286 on the allegation of negligence. The cafe owner is said to be missing and has switched off his mobile phone. Police are searching for him.

The incidents have also highlighted that building laws are being violated.

According to Karnataka Home Buyers Forum Sanchalak Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, there are laws in place such as the building development code, on how the building should be constructed, but these are being flouted.

"It has instructions like how the fire department vehicles should come in if there is a fire, and how necessary equipment should be kept in the building and people must be trained to use them, but none of the protocols are being implemented neither by the developer or the people maintaining the property," he said.

He added that every two years, the fire department has to give buildings a certificate, and during the inspection, the official has to check what equipment is set up and if people are trained to use them properly.

"But there is so much corruption that they give out certificates without checking properly. If you comply with the guidelines this situation shouldn't have occurred. I would blame both the parties, the official who was supposed to check and the government, that is not seeing what the officials are upto," said Dhananjaya.

He added that action should be taken against the people who give clearance certificates of the fire department without making sure that the building was indeed safe.

HC rejects DKS' petition challenging CBI FIR

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday rejected the petition by Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress chief D K Shivakumar challenging the Central Bureau of Investigation's FIR against him in the disproportionate assets case.

Justice K Natarajan, who concluded the hearing and reserved the judgment earlier, announced the verdict on Thursday.

The HC also directed the CBI to conclude the investigation and file the report within three months.

Justice Natarajan reasoned that since the CBI has concluded most of the investigation, the court would not interfere in it at this juncture.

The CBI is at the stage of filing a charge sheet after completing gathering statements from the accused. While the operative portion of the judgment rejecting Shivakumar's petition was dictated, the complete judgment copy is awaited.

The CBI has alleged that Shivakumar amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income between 2013 and 2018. He was a minister in the previous Congress government during this period.

The FIR was filed by the CBI on September 3, 2020. Shivakumar challenged the FIR in the high court in 2021.

The Income Tax Department had conducted a search and seizure operation in the offices and residence of Shivakumar in 2017, based on which the Enforcement Directorate (ED) started its own probe against him. **PTI**

BM NAVARANG 2023

Navarang with Bangalore Mirror

In today's colourful celebration of Navarang, the chosen colour was saffron, infusing the day with warmth and energy. Adding a unique touch to the festivities, a dedicated team from Ramaiah College embraced the spirit of Navarang, aligning themselves with the theme colour in a lively display that vividly depicted Bangalore Mirror (BM). The staff stood in a delightful line, creating a visual spectacle that resonated with the essence of the celebration. The lively participation continued with numerous individuals donning saffron attire and enthusiastically sending their spirited photos to BM, creating a colourful mosaic of collective joy.

With only a few days remaining in this jubilant Navarang celebration, the excitement is visible everywhere as the call goes out to everyone to join in the festivities. The theme colour saffron has brought a sense of unity and harmony to the celebrations, and as the countdown continues, the anticipation builds for more participants to immerse themselves in the theme and share their vibrant photos with BM.

Submit your group photos/selfies, along with names, addresses, and mobile numbers, to our WhatsApp line before 3 pm daily.

Our number is given below.

The best group photo stands a chance to be featured in BM-Navarang.

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Today's colour: GREEN

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Ashalatha & friends, Nagarabhavi

Bhagya with BG family, BHCS Layout

V Nagenahalli Jay Maa Durga Seva Samiti

Uma Rudraiah and friends, Kumara Park

Vaishnavi ARS Gardenia, Jalahalli Cross

Chaithra and Anusha, RR Nagar

Veena and Manjula, Hanumanthnagar

Faculty & Staff, Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Yeshwantpur

Suma and kitty friends. Rajarajeshwari Nagar

GST Office, Banashankari

Golden ladies of Natura Anya Villa, Sarjapur

State Bank of India, KG Road

Shantaswamy, Banagirinagara, Banashankari 3rd stage

Shyla and friends, Nagendra Block

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sushma C N, Residing at No 94-A, Sompura Hobli, 3rd Cross, Gurusiddappa Layout, Dobbespet Post, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural Taluk, 562111 . My father's name is Mr. Nagesh Babu C.R. alias Nagesh Chitloor Ramakrishna Setty, as per my AAdhaar Card: 3681 6979 4713 and Indian Passport no: L3500789 and both names are of the same person, vide affidavit dated 17/10/2023 before Notary V Jeyaprakash, Bangalore

I, Jeetesh Deverhalli S/o. Devendrappa Deverhalli Badiyal residing at Flat No.C-801, 8th Floor, Adarsh Rhythm Apartment, Panduranga Nagar, Bangalore-560076 have changed my minor daughter's name from AANYA JEETESH DEVERHALLI to AANYA JEETESH vide affidavit dated 18.10.2023 Sworn before notary Sarala Kumari, Bangalore

WE, IRFAN SHARIEFF AND AYESHA SULTANA, aged about major years, R/a No. Old No. 61 new no. 27, 2nd cross, Chamundinagar, R T Nagar, Bangalore- 560032. We have changed our daughter name from DANIYA IRFAN to OZAIFA IRFAN. Vide affedavit dated- 17.10.23. Sworn before notary Leela, Bangalore.

I, Fredrick Rajkumar James Paul Raj R/o Flat No 104, Abhiman Enclave, Next To Bjp Office, Dodda Banaswadi, Bengaluru- 560043. have changed my minor son's name from Lawrence Pradeep to Lawrence Pradeep Fredrick Rajkumar.

I, Vijayakumari residing at Flat No.C-801, 8th Floor, Adarsh Rhythm Apartment, Panduranga Nagar, Bangalore-560076 have changed my name to VIJAYAKUMARI BASAPPA KALASUR vide affidavit dated 18.10.2023 Sworn before notary Sarala Kumari, Bangalore

I, Saliha Shariff S/o Late. Ameer Jan, R/at No.5/1, 2nd Floor, 2nd Main road, 1st cross, Padarayanapura, Bangalore-560026 here by declare that Saliha Shariff and A.M Babu Shariff both the names belongs to me only, affidavit dt: 19.10.2023, notary Lakshmaiah, Blore

I, Ashwathanarayana Halenahalli Doddaiah S/o Doddaiah, R/at # 1076/17 New No 3473,VBHBCS Layout, Girinagara 4th Phase, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru 560085, have changed my name to Aswathanarayana Halenahalli Doddaiah for all purposes.

I Vinod Tony Antony Dass S/O, Antony Dass R/o No 105, First Floor, Kvg Grandeur, Phase2 Kanaka Nagar, Nri Layout, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to Vinod Tony A.

I Krishna Bhargav S S/O, T Shankarappa R/o 252/16 7th Cross 2nd Block Jayangar Bangalore 560011 have changed my name to Krishna Bharggav.

I Shreedhar S/o Sreeramulu M R/o #9 ,8th cross, Dayananda Nagar Srirampuram B'lore-560021 have changed my name to Sreedhar S for all purposes

I, GEETHA PURUSHOTHAM W/o R Purushothaman resident of No.C-805, Primus Reflection kanakapura main road, Near Art of Living, Uttarahalli Hobli, Kaggalipura, Bangalore-560082 have changed my name to GEETHA PURUSHOTHAMAN, vide affidavit dated 17.10.2023 sworn before notary Natesh D, B.lore.

I, Lakshmamma W/o, Late Narayanappa, R/a No.2869, Manikya Villa, Mayura Road, Lingarajapura, Bangalore (GMDC)- 560084. I have changed my name to Vijayalakshmi. Vide affedavit dated- 13.10.23. Sworn before notary S Nagaraja, Bangalore.

I, AJAZ AHMED, SON of M D ISMAIL, aged about 43 years, R/a No. 1186, 4th Cross, Basha Street, Modi Road, D J Halli, Bangalore- 560045. I have changed my name to AYAZ AHMED. Vide affedavit dated-17.10.23. Sworn before notary Leela, Bangalore.

I, JAYALAKSHAMMA resident of No.245, 18th Main road, 2nd Cross, Subramanya Nagara, Bangalore-560021 have changed my name to YALLAMMA vide affidavit dated 18.10.2023 sworn before notary Natesh D, B.lore.

I Axitha Rajendar Kumar W/O, Rishab Mehta R/o Flat No 501, Balaji Luxuria, No 26, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bangalore - 560011 have changed my name to Akshita Rishab Mehta.

I Twinkle W Bangalore D/O, Wilson Bangalore R/o #216 Vr Gokulam , Kannurhalli Village Road, Hoskote 562114 have changed my name to Twinkle Wilson .

I, Ananda S/o Somanna R/o 1097, 4th main , 10th cross , E and F Block Ramakrishna Nagara Mysore-570022 have changed my name to Anand .

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Park not parking lot

Karnataka High Court's directive for vehicle parking within Cubbon Park raises alarm among environmentalists, citizens

Iffath Fathima@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Citizens fear parking vehicles inside may harm ecology, raise pollution levels

Environmentalists, Cubbon Park regulars, and citizen groups have expressed their concerns following the revelation of a Karnataka High Court letter, signed by the Registrar General, directing the parking of vehicles on one side of the road between the Queen Victoria statue and KSLTA within Cubbon Park. Citizens argue that allowing vehicles inside the park could lead to ecological issues and increased pollution levels.

The letter by the High Court of Karnataka was addressed to the Joint Commissioner of Police Traffic, the Secretary to the government (Horticulture Department), and the Chief Engineer of PWD South. It stated, "I am directed to request you to take necessary steps to enable parking of vehicles of public litigants on one side of the road between Victoria Statue to KSLTA/road, Cubbon Park, Bengaluru. Further, the Police Department is also directed to take necessary steps in coordination with concerned departments to put up signboards designating the parking area for enabling parking of the vehicles on the said road," as signed by KS Bharath Kumar, Registrar General.

However, many citizens opposed the decision, questioning its lack of public consultation. They emphasised the need to protect Cubbon Park rather than encroach upon it. "It is very worrying. The steady encroachment of parking into the core park is quite shocking. Apart from aesthetics, air and noise pollution, safety, zoning etc, its closeness to Bal Bhavan and kids there, the hawker impact, there is the issue of legality and the Park Preservation Act, which protects spaces like this from being overrun," said Priya Chetty Rajagopal from We Love Cubbon Park.

> **"Vehicles are going to eat up the recreational activity space. There will be air quality and noise pollution issues**
>
> –Sunita Kumar, We Love Cubbon Park member,

President of Cubbon Park Walkers Association, S Umesh Kumar, said, "Back in 2019, we opposed the seven-storey building, which was proposed to be the new annexe building of the Karnataka High Court, within Cubbon Park. I challenged the case, and further, the divisional bench said that no construction would be initiated. Many citizens were against it as it would cause environmental and social impacts. Similarly, now we do not want any parking space to come up in the park. Public suggestions need to be taken as 1000s of people use the park every day. Nobody has taken our opinion, and even the Horticulture department has not formed. We need to protect and save the park and look at improving its greenery and maintaining rather than coming up with the idea of starting parking spaces."

Sunita Kumar, a We Love Cubbon Park member, said, "Vehicles are going to eat up the recreational activity space. There will be air quality and noise pollution issues."

When BM reached out to the police officials, a senior traffic department official pointed out that the letter had been received but did not comment on what action plans would be carried out next.

Speaking to BM, Shamla, Secretary to Government, Horticulture department, said, "We have received the letter. We have formed a Cubbon Park Conservation Committee with all stakeholders. Will place before the committee and decide".

Community-led park care in Bengaluru

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

During the recent Brand Bengaluru conclave, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar revealed that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is formulating a scheme to empower citizen-driven committees to oversee the upkeep of parks and playgrounds within their respective wards. The funding for maintenance would be sourced from corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs. However, the final decision on this initiative will be made after consulting with legislators.

While the Deputy Chief Minister has said the committees will remain apolitical and help abolish public space encroachment, activists are wary of the consequences.

Last year, the maintenance of parks under the jurisdiction of BBMP caused much conversation as instances of walkers keeping the keys of parks came to light. These walkers would control the time the parks are open to the public and which section of the public enters them. They often locked the park premises after 10 am, only for it to open at 5 pm. Pourakarmikas, food delivery partners, and other gig workers were banned from the park premises. Soon after the incidents caused commotion, the BBMP Chief Commissioner, Tushar Giri Nath, in July 2022 issued an order mandating the parks department to keep the gates open between 5 am and 8 pm. However, the parks would remain closed for maintenance from 11 am to 1.30 pm. Workers, mostly from poor urban backgrounds, had begun to use the parks again to eat their food and lay their backs under cool shade without restrictions.

> **BBMP explores idea allowing citizen committees to maintain parks and playgrounds in their wards, funded by CSR initiatives**

Activists are now wary of the keys being put back into the hands of walkers as they are likely to maintain the premises according to their own rules. They have suggested that the responsibility can instead be given to the ward committees, which are a statutory body.

Ganesh (name changed), a regular visitor at Cubbon Park, said that the government must consider keeping the maintenance responsibility within the BBMP itself. "After walkers complained of entry of dogs in Cubbon Park, the Horticulture Department considered banning them from the premises. That is the kind of power that these walker associations hold. The BBMP alone should take care of the maintenance and ensure that no discriminatory rules are put in place," he said. He also noted the recent incident of a reading community, Lalbagh Reads, being told not to gather in the Lalbagh garden premises by the Horticulture Department as it would hamper the growth of flora and fauna after a complaint from a regular walker. "If this is the kind of power the walkers weld in the city's two most famous and spacious parks, imagine the power they would have across smaller parks in different wards," he said.

IN BRIEF

Feeder bus routes extended

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has introduced new feeder buses to facilitate first and last-mile connectivity for metro users on four different routes. Two buses will operate from the Hoodi metro station to KR Pura via Iyyappanagara and Devasandra. Two buses have been designated to make rounds from JP Nagar metro station to the 7th phase of JP Nagar through RV Dental College, Puttenahalli Cross, and Brigade Millennium. A metro feeder bus has been assigned to operate from Jayanagar 9th block via Ragiguuda, Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, RV Road metro station, Jayanagara metro station, and the Sanjay Gandhi hospital. Lastly, two buses have been designated to run from Banashankari to BTM layout via JP Nagar 6th phase, RV Dental College, Delmia, JP Nagar 3rd phase, and Mahadeshwara layout. —BMB

Extortion ring bust: 6 detained

Amruthahalli police have apprehended six accused involved in extortion activities within the city. The arrests have led to the seizure of 1 car, 15 motorcycles, and Rs 11,750 in cash, totalling Rs 17.5 lakh in assets. The accused had been extorting money from residents across multiple police station jurisdictions, including Amruthahalli, Banaswadi, Kothanur, and Mahadevpur. The Amruthahalli Police Station in Bengaluru has registered a case in this regard.

"A special team was formed by the Amruthahalli police station to investigate the case, and that team arrested 6 accused persons. According to the information given during interrogation, about Rs 17.5 lakhs were recovered from them in connection with various cases," said the police.

The arrests have effectively resolved 8 cases, including theft and 3 extortion cases in the Amruthahalli police station, a theft case in the Banaswadi police station, and one case each in Kothanur, Mahadevpur, and Yelahanka police stations. —BMB

JD(S) shake-up: Ibrahim out

Janata Dal (Secular) patriarch HD Deve Gowda on Thursday removed the party's Karnataka unit president and his close aide CM Ibrahim, days after the latter raised a banner of revolt against the party's decision to forge an alliance with the BJP for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Gowda dissolved the state working committee and appointed his son and former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy as its ad-hoc president.

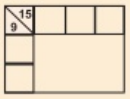
Ibrahim reacted sharply to his sacking and warned of mounting a legal challenge against it.

Upset with the removal, he termed Gowda's decision "Vinasha Kaale Vipareeta Buddhi" (As the doom approaches, one's intelligence functions perversely). —PTI

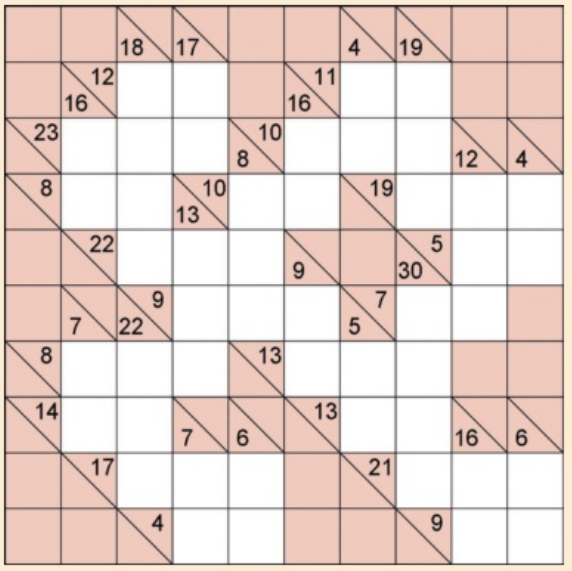
PVR INOX
ORION | FORUM | VAISHNAVI | REGALIA | MARKETCITY | VEGA CITY | SPIRIT | UPTOWN
GT MALL | AURA | VR | REX | BHARATIYA CITY | GLOBAL MALL | SUPERPLEX FORUM MALL
SWACATH | MANTRI | CENTRAL MALL | GARUDA MALL | LIDO | VALUE MALL | BROOKFIELD | RMZ | GARUDA YALAHANKA | SBR HORIZON
Cinépolis
ETA | RMM | ORION EAST
SHANTINIKETAN | SJR | LULU
GOPALAN
ARCADE | INNOVATION | LEGACY
GRAND | SIGNATURE
Swagath
SHANKAR NAG
ROCKLINE
JALAHALLI
MARATHHALLI
MIRAJ
KINO
BASED ON A TRUE STORY
INSPIRED BY A MILLION TRUE STORIES
KRG Studios
12TH FAIL
#RESTART
FROM DIRECTOR
VIDHU VINOD CHOPRA
IN CINEMAS WORLDWIDE
27TH OCTOBER
HINDI | KANNADA

Kakuro

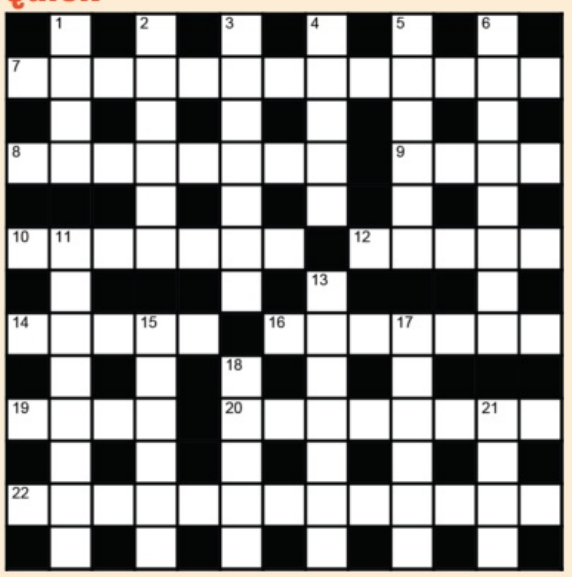
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Lying (13)
8 Cause to shrink (8)
9 Employs (4)
10 Keenly (7)
12 Portable shelters (5)
14 Severe (5)
16 ____ itself : come to mind? (7)
19 Prophetic sign (4)
20 Making indistinct (8)
22 Illicit (5,3,5)

DOWN

1 Reasoning word (4)
2 Tree-lined road (6)
3 Journalistic feature (7)
4 Hurts (5)
5 Adjust or harmonize (6)
6 Set store anagram for floral badges? (8)
11 Frightening, unnerving or scaring (8)
13 Sewn surgically (7)
15 You will find the Bangalore Golf Club on this road (6)
17 Nuremberg native (6)
18 Borders on (5)
21 African river (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS G

ME EML JMESD SKE PD FPDG-LMPMX, DWH MEGKPMX HEZ SEZFN MEG SPDK AZG PM GKL MLSDAWALCD.

Linemaro

I love your pearly whites

Mindchow

Contentment is the greatest wealth

Joke of the day

Smith & Wesson: The original point and click interface

Loop

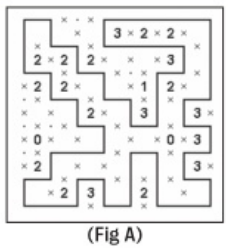
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

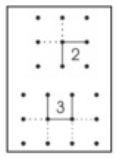
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

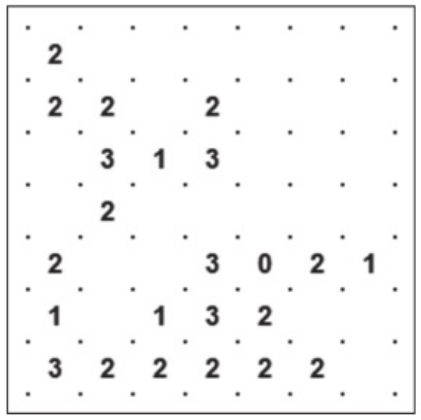
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



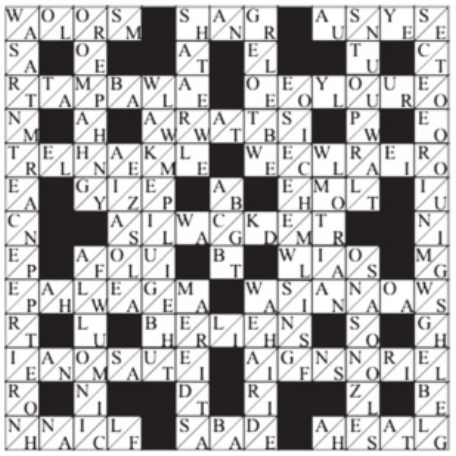
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



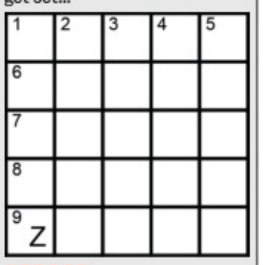
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 FT Rig; 6 Enrol; 7 If ran; 8 Metes; 9 Sir Oz

DOWN

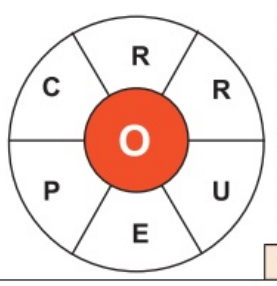
1 LT Zig; 2 One or; 3 Finer; 4 Me fir; 5 Tsars

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

53 (3) 59
92 (4) 98
34 (2) 38
71 (?) 79

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

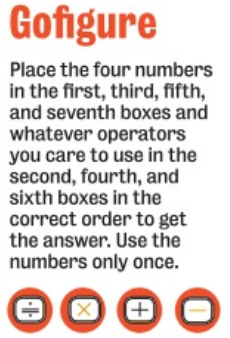
SudokuChallenge

			4	5	8			
3			6		7			2
8		4				9		5
	9			3			4	
			7		5			
	5			1			7	
6		7				1		3
1			2		4			6
			1	6	3			

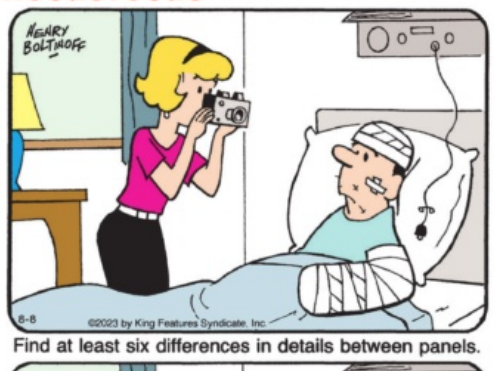
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

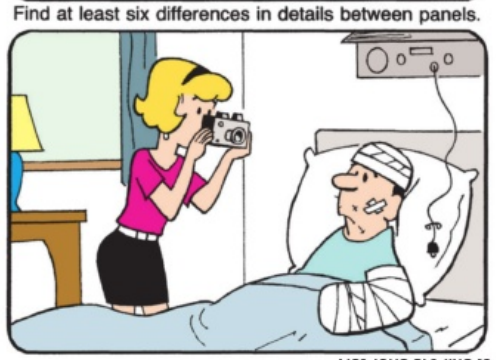
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



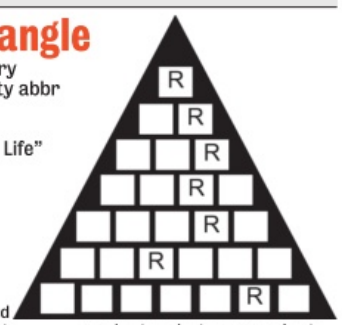
Differences: 1. Cast is shorter. 2. Cord is moved. 3. Bandage is different. 4. Nose is different. 5. Arm is moved. 6. Skirt is shorter.

Riddler

Boxed when a dozen are laid Rigged it is shoddy at best Out a decision yet made Trial by a peer's test What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Radius in geometry
2 Augmented Reality abbr
3 Road vehicle
4 Find fault
5 "It's A Wonderful Life" director
6 Wrist bone
7 Poster



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

YOU ALWAYS PICK A LOUSY CAMPSITE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
THE WATER'S SO HARD YOU CAN'T EVEN DRINK IT!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO EXAGGERATE EVERYTHING?
7-25

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

EVENING, MR. WATERBOTTLE
EVENING, SID
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE
WELL, YOU KNOW... SUMMER'S MY BUSY SEASON
WHAT CAN I GET YOU?
I'LL HAVE A SCOTCH AND ME
8/8

Hart of the city

I TALKED TO CHARLOTTE TODAY, AND I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT TO THINK OF HER.
THAT'S SURPRISING. YOU TWO HAVE SO MUCH IN COMMON!
YEAH, BUT SHE'S ALWAYS ONE-UPPING ME! SHE ALWAYS HAPPENS TO HAVE A COOLER STORY THAN ME. SEEMS FAKE.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS THAT SOMEONE IS NERDIER THAN YOU.
THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE!
I BET CHARLOTTE WOULD GET THAT REFERENCE.
YOU'RE NOT HELPING.

Crankshaft

YOU'RE BACK!
YES... I WANT TO GET THAT GREEN LAMA OMNIBUS FOR JEFF FOR CHRISTMAS!
ACTUALLY, HE WAS LOOKING FOR THIS 'GREEN LANTERN OMNIBUS.'
GREEN LAMA, GREEN LANTERN... SAME DIFFERENCE.
ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT... BUT YOU'RE FORGIVEN.
KOMIX
8-5

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, disputes with siblings may be settled, which may boost your relationship with them. Your vital force seems good, which may help you complete difficult projects easily. You may expand your network after a short work-related trip. You may also help some needy people, increasing your social status.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be busy with a family get-together, which may make you more polite with the people around you and improve your image among relatives and friends. You will spend money buying some artefacts and other items to improve your social status. You may also hear some good news from one of your close relatives.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, elders' blessings will help you develop patience. Your focus may return, helping you achieve your goals. You may perform well in terms of business and domestic life, achieving a balance between expenditures and savings that will boost your savings.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, some dissatisfaction may creep into your mind, making you feel lazy and dull, affecting your project's progress and causing delays. Lovebirds are advised to avoid making important decisions about marriage. Job seekers may face disappointments in interviews.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, your internal power may make you happy, and you may experience short-term gains in investments. You may establish good relations with your boss and could even receive a promotion. Your prestige in society may increase, and you may also expect some work-related travel.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. You could attain a higher position after your hard work, improving your performance at work. You may also meet some influential individuals who can guide you to improve your life. You'll manage domestic issues with ease, enhancing harmony in your domestic life.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may find yourself feeling happier, and things may seem somewhat better. You might plan to visit a religious place to gain inner strength and donate to religious places or charity. Expect the possibility of overseas travel for education or work. Couples may find suitable matches, while singles are likely to find their soul mates.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel alone and engage in self-analysis. You can anticipate changes in your place or position. Your patience may be tested, and being arrogant with people around you could affect your personal life. It's advisable to avoid adventure tours.

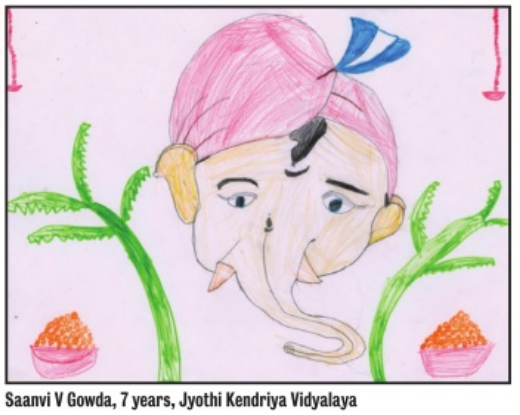
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may sense positive vibrations around you and consider bringing in artefacts or household items to renovate your house. You may plan to start a new business in partnership and expect some long-distance travel. Building trust with your spouse will bring harmony to your domestic life.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may perform your best in the office, establishing a good rapport with your boss and receiving new responsibilities, possibly promotions. Chronic health issues may improve, and you may receive good incentives for your work. Any disputes with siblings may be resolved, and job seekers may find new jobs.

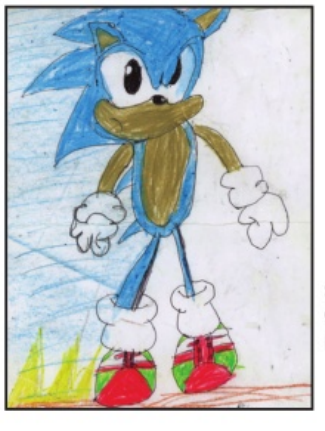
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, your children's education may keep you busy, and you may plan for their higher studies. Couples may receive good news related to their kids. Consider updating yourself and making plans for higher studies to secure a promotion in your current job. Singles may find their soul mates. Natives in education, consulting, and banking fields will perform better.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel dissatisfied and unable to fulfil your responsibilities. Your investments may result in some losses. You are advised to carefully read documents before signing them. Concerns about elders' health may upset you, and it's suggested to postpone house renovation plans for a while.

KIDZONE



Saanvi V Gowda, 7 years, Jyothi Kendriya Vidyalaya



Shushruth RT, 9 years, MSS School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= (1+¼+½)*36
= ((36+9+4)/36)*36
= (49/36)*36
= 49

BULL'S EYE
cope, core, corer, coup, coupe, crop, croup, pore, pour, PROCURE, recoup, rope

FAST FIVE

G	R	I	F	T
L	O	N	E	R
I	N	F	R	A
T	E	M	S	
Z	O	R	I	S

QUOTE UNCODE
No one knows who is listening, say nothing you would not wish put in the newspapers.

STRIKE OUT

N	A	I	F		S	A	D		H	E	A	L		
O														
M														
A														
R	E	N	A	M	E		E	C	L	A	I	R		

QUICK

														E
														G
														U
														O
														M
														I
														O
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														S
														I
														O
														N

MENSA PUZZLE
9: (7 × 9) ÷ (7 × 1)

RIDDLER
Jury

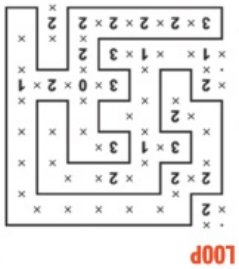
SUDOKU

5	2	8	1	6	3	7	9	4
1	3	9	2	7	4	8	5	6
6	4	7	5	8	9	1	2	3
4	5	3	9	1	6	2	7	8
2	8	1	7	4	5	6	3	9
7	9	6	8	3	2	5	4	1
8	7	4	3	2	1	9	6	5
3	1	5	6	9	7	4	8	2
9	6	2	4	5	8	3	1	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, AR, Car, Carp, Capra, Carpal, Placard.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 5 − 4 + 1 = 11
Medium
3 + 6 + 5 + 6 = 20
Hard
2 − 6 + 6 x 6 = 12

LOOP



KAKURO

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Radcliffe's denial— Daniel Radcliffe has addressed rumours about his potential portrayal of The Wolverine in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Radcliffe has denied starting these rumours and confirmed that he will not be taking on the iconic superhero role

Action-packed thriller

The highly anticipated and hyped multi-lingual film, "Ghost," has generated excitement among movie-goers. This movie features an ensemble cast, including Dr. Shivarajkumar, often referred to as the Big Daddy of Masses in the Sandalwood industry, Jayaram, a renowned actor in the Malayalam film industry, and Anupam Kher, a well-known figure in Bollywood. "Ghost" is being released in Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi, with the Telugu version set to hit screens next week in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The film opens with Vaman (Prashanth Narayan), a former CBI officer, advocating for the privatisation of North Prison. This concept of privatising a prison may seem incongruous and unrealistic, even for a movie. At this point, a mysterious gangster (Dr Shivarajkumar), whose name remains concealed, infiltrates the prison with his supporters and hatches a plan to take control of a cell within North Prison with the help of select inmates to execute a daring heist. The gangster's associates hold both prisoners and prison officials hostage.

Simultaneously, the government assigns Chengappa (Jayaram), a ruthless police officer, to deal firmly with the gangster and his supporters. The remainder of the film revolves around unravelling the gangster's identity and the motive behind hijacking the prison cell.

GHOST

3.0 RATING | ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** M G Srinivas
- **ACTORS** Dr Shivarajkumar, Jayaram, Anupam Kher, Archana Jois, Prashanth Narayan
- **Duration** 126 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

Despite the film's promising start, the screenplay disappoints the audience. Excessive use of flashbacks disrupts the storytelling, particularly during the first half. While the narrative gains momentum after the intermission, it loses steam shortly afterwards. Director MG Srinivas leaves viewers somewhat perplexed about the events and their significance. Dr Shivarajkumar delivers a strong performance, with his ability to convey messages through his eyes being a standout feature.

Audiences are treated to a de-aged Shivarajkumar, thanks to the technical team's efforts to make him appear youthful. Jayaram plays a distinctive character in this film, and Anupam Kher's brief performance is notable. Supporting actors such as Satya Prakash, Prashanth Narayan, and Satya Prakash also deliver commendable performances. The film benefits greatly from Arjun Janya's exceptional background score and Mahendra Simha's cinematography.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Sun-kissed

Shraddha Kapoor's sunlit selfies spark fan frenzy

Sunlight exposure is an essential source of vitamin D, and our Bollywood actress Shraddha Kapoor swears by it.

On Thursday, she dropped her sunkissed selfies. More than the images, it was her caption that caught everyone's attention. "Need sunlight like Jaadoo," Shraddha captioned the post, referring to the alien in Hrithik Roshan's 'Koi Mil Gaya', who sourced his power from sunlight.

As soon as Shraddha dropped the pictures, fans flooded the comment section with their reactions."You are a magician; why do you have a magical sunshine," a social media user commented.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Shraddha will be seen reuniting with Rajkumar Rao in 'Stree 2'. The film recently went on floors in Chanderi, Madhya Pradesh. Makers of the upcoming horror comedy film officially announced their film at a grand event in Mumbai in April, where the team enacted a skit to announce the release date of the horror comedy sequel. The sequel will be out in theatres in August 2024. Pankaj Tripathi, Abhishek Banerjee and Aparshakti Khurana will also feature in the horror-comedy drama.

Shraddha was last seen opposite Ranbir Kapoor in the rom-com 'Tu Jhooti Main Makakar'. —ANI

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